

MESSAGE

FROM THE

PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES,

TRANSMITTING

A Report of the Secretary of the Navy,

OF THE EXPENDITURES

UNDER THE ACTS OF 1816 AND 1821,

FOR THE GRADUAL INCREASE OF THE NAVY;

The Vessels Built and Building;

THE TIMBER PURCHASED AND CONTRACTED FOR, &c.

FEBRUARY 26, 1824.

Read, and ordered to lie upon the table.

WASHINGTON:

PRINTED BY GALES & SEATON.

1824.

MESSAGE.

To the House of Representatives of the United States:

In conformity with the resolution of the House of Representatives, of the 17th instant, I now transmit the report of the Secretary of the Navy, accompanied by statements marked A and B; shewing "the amount of money expended in conformity with the provisions of an act, entitled 'An act for the gradual increase of the Navy of the United States,' approved April 29th, 1816; and of the 'Act to amend said act,' approved 3d of March, 1821: also, the number of vessels built, or now on the stocks, with their rates; the value of the timber purchased, or for which contracts have been made; and whether sufficient timber has been purchased, or contracted for, to build the vessels contemplated by the provisions of said acts."

JAMES MONROE.

Washington, Feb. 25, 1824.

NAVY DEPARTMENT,

February 24, 1824.

SIR: In compliance with the resolution of the House of Representatives, of the 17th instant, requesting the President of the United States "to present a statement of the amount of money expended, in conformity with the provisions of an act, entitled 'An act for the gradual increase of the Navy of the United States,' approved the 29th of April, 1816; and of the 'Act to amend said act,' approved the 3d of March, 1821," I have the honor to communicate a copy of a letter from the Board of Navy Commissioners, respecting the vessels built and building; and the timber purchased and contracted for: also, copy of a letter from the Fourth Auditor, exhibiting the amount of money expended in conformity with the provisions of said act.

It will be perceived that the timber purchased and contracted for amounts to a small part only of the whole expenditure, being but \$1,546,452 74, while the whole amounts to \$5,972,460 27. Other materials have been purchased, and contracts made for more, which, not being called for in the resolution, are not embraced in the answer.

With the highest respect, I have the honor to be,

Sir, your most obedient servant,

SAMUEL L. SOUTHARD.

The PRESIDENT of the United States.

A.

TREASURY DEPARTMENT,

Fourth Auditor's office, 19th Feb. 1824.

SIR: Pursuant to a call of the House of Representatives of the United States, by their resolution of the 17th instant, I have the honor to hand you a statement exhibiting the annual amount of money expended in conformity with the provisions of an act, entitled "An act for the gradual increase of the Navy of the United States," approved 29th April, 1816, and of the act to amend said act, approved 3d March, 1821, amounting, in the aggregate, to five millions nine hundred and seventy-two thousand four hundred and sixty dollars and twenty-seven cents, (\$5,972,460 27.) and embracing the whole period from the passage of the first recited act to the 18th February, 1824.

I have the honor to be,

Sir, very respectfully,

Your obedient servant,

CONSTANT FREEMAN,

Fourth Auditor.

Hon. SAMUEL L. SOUTHARD,

Secretary of the Navy.

STATEMENT exhibiting the annual amount of money expended in conformity with the provisions of an act, entitled "An act for the gradual increase of the Navy of the United States, approved 29th April, 1816, and of the Act to amend said act, approved 3d March, 1821; prepared in pursuance of a resolution of the House of Representatives of the United States, passed the 17th February, 1823.

From 29th April	to 30th September, 1816, -	\$81,783 01
1st October, 1816, to 30th do	1817, -	508,352 36
1st do. 1817, to 30th do	1818, -	627,324 24
1st do. 1818, to 30th do	1819, -	1,083,410 15
1st do. 1819, to 30th do	1820, -	1,451,650 67
1st do. 1820, to 30th do	1821, -	973,040 04
1st do. 1821, to 30th do	1822, -	700,248 30
1st do. 1822, to 30th do	1823, -	446,959 72
1st do. 1823, to 17th February, 1824, -		99,691 78
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		\$5,972,460 27
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TREASURY DEPARTMENT,

Fourth Auditor's Office, 19th February, 1824.

CONSTANT FREEMAN,

Fourth Auditor.

B.

NAVY COMMISSIONERS' OFFICE,

20th February, 1824.

SIR: In reply to that part of the resolution of the House of Representatives, of the 17th instant, which requires information as to "the number of vessels built, or now on the stocks, with their rates, the value of the timber purchased, or for which contracts have been made, and whether sufficient timber has been purchased, or contracted for, to build the vessels contemplated by the provisions of said act" of 29th April, 1816; the Commissioners of the Navy have the honor to state:

That four ships of the line and one frigate have been built; that five ships of the line and five frigates are now on the stocks; that the frames of two other frigates, and of two steam batteries have been procured; that the frames of another frigate and another steam battery have been nearly procured—the deficiency in both not exceeding probably 10,000 Dollars.

That "the value of the timber purchased, or for which contracts have been made," after a careful examination of all the various contracts made, since the first organization of the Board, is estimated at \$1,546,452 74.

That sufficient timber has not been purchased, or contracted for, to build all the vessels contemplated by the act for the gradual increase of the navy—and of the timber procured, a portion, though a very small one it is hoped, will probably be found defective on working up. The whole deficiency of timber may, possibly, amount to 120,000 to \$130,000. It will not, we are confident, exceed the latter sum.

I have the honor to be,

With great respect, Sir,

Your most obedient servant,

JOHN RODGERS.

HON. SAMUEL L. SOUTHARD,

Secretary of the Navy.